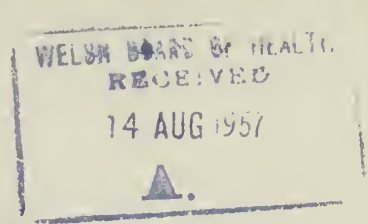


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Builth Rural District Council  
Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1956.

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Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....J.C.Bowen, M.R.S.H.,  
M.A.P.H.I.





Builth Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1956.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary circumstances and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District during the year 1956.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 19/56 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. The district has an acreage of 125,944 and is a large rural area situated in the northern part of the county of Breconshire. It consists of almost one fifth of the whole county. The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	25	32	57	
Illegitimate	0	1	1	
	25	33	58	16.6

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 15.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and was also higher than the district death rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Illegitimate Births. One registered birth was illegitimate.

Still Births. There were no still births in the district during the year. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales was 23.0 per 1000 live and still births.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	18	23	41	11.7

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate therefore equalled the national rate and was lower than the birthrate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Population.

Census 1931.....4426.

Census 1951.....3502.

Estimated midsummer 1956.....3490.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years is shown below.

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

3576. 3467. 3412. 3391. 3395. 3439. 3413. 3500. 3490. 3490.

The population dropped considerably between the last two census years, but in the last ten years has remained roughly stationary.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred during the year which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a satisfactory feature.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.  
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.  
 Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.  
 Cancer.....4.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. No such deaths occurred in the district during the year. The national rate was 23.8 per 1000 live births.

Number of inhabited houses. This number 1060 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.3.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

Males.....18. Females.....23.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	2.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	1.....	0.
Diabetes.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	4.....	2.
Coronary disease.....	2.....	1.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	0.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	9.....	11.
Other circulatory disease.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	1.
Nephritis.....	0.....	1.
Other causes.....	0.....	2.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. Mr. G. Llewellyn left the employment of the Council and was replaced as Public Health Inspector by Mr. J. C. Bowen, who commenced duties on 1st. March, 1956.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Hereford. All water and milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the same laboratory.

Nursing and other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.



Disinfection.In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies.The water supply to the various parts of the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well. During the year the supply of water has been satisfactory at the source but there were occasional shortages due to mechanical failure.

The Llanwrthwl supply was augmented by taking in an additional spring. The source there was further protected by fencing in an additional area. The installation of chlorinators was authorised for the Cilmerly and Gwenddwr supplies. The supplies at these two villages have given adverse reports and I here cannot emphasise too strongly that to be satisfactory these chlorinators need frequent and careful supervision.

Llanwrthwyl and Cefngorwydd supplies gave some difficulty regarding the adequacy of supply for a short period. In the case of Cefngorwydd this was due to mechanical failure of the hydram. This was repaired and improvements to the drive water lagoon were also carried out. The hydram at Garth was also overhauled.

The Council supplies were cleaned out and other steps taken to prevent contamination. The private supplies were subjected either to similar treatment or alternative supplies found.

Number of visits to water supplies.....96.  
There are no filtration or chlorination works in the district.

Water Samples.

Public Supplies.The number of samples from public supplies sent for bacteriological examination was 51. Of these, 33 were reported as satisfactory, 12 as unsatisfactory and 6 as doubtful. In addition, 67 samples were taken from private sources and private proposed supplies. Of these, 21 were reported as satisfactory, 40 as unsatisfactory and 6 as doubtful. One chemical examination was also made of a private supply at the request of a medical practitioner.

There was a steady demand for the sampling of proposed farm supplies comprising improvement schemes under the Hill Farming Act, 1946 and a considerable amount of advice was given on the selection and protection of various proposed schemes.

Regional Scheme.Further preparation of the scheme was carried out, and by the end of the year the draft order had been submitted to the Welsh Office. Work in connection with the acquisition of various portions of land was also in hand. The Public Inquiry was held in August and, at the end of the year, the result was awaited.

Drainage and Sewerage.There is no sewerage scheme in any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of Llandewicwm, which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer, and for the villages of Llanwrthwyl and Cilmerly.

The work on the Llangammarch scheme was commenced, the Cilmerly scheme completed and the Erwood scheme reached tender stage during the year.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Number of visits to sewage disposal sites.....23.  
Number of general visits in connection with drainage.....60.

Builth Wells Rural District

Public Cleansing. The scheme inaugurated in 1952, provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Hay Road (Builth Wells), and at Beulah. These tips have finished their useful life and new sites in Llanysis and Llanafonfechan will be used, probably in the coming year. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. The refuse disposal scheme for Llanwrthwl forms a separate contract and all refuse collected there is disposed of at the tip near the village.

Number of visits made to refuse tips.....33.  
 Number of general visits in connection with refuse.....67.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. C. Bowen. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....19.  
 Number of complaints investigated.....19.  
 Number of premises revisited.....19.  
 Number of notices served.....Nil.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....3.  
 Number of notices served.....0.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....5.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....2.  
 Number of notices served.....0.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....6.  
 Number of visits made.....8.  
 Number of notices served.....Nil.  
 Number of defects found.....Nil.

Camping Sites. There is one recognised camping site in the district, at Cilnery.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bugs during the year.



Rodent Control.

Number of premises inspected.....	856.
Number found infested.....	303.
Number of premises treated by Rodent operator.....	298.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	5.
Number of dead rats picked up.....	656.

During October and November Erwood was treated as a block. Hay Road and Beulah refuse tips were also treated, and were visited monthly. The sewers at Oaklands were also treated during May, when small takes were registered near Gas Works brook.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No houses were built by the Council during the year. Consideration was given to the building of houses at Erwood and Cilmerly, and plans for the building of 12 houses at Erwood were prepared.

Number of houses built by private enterprise.....	4.
Number of houses built by Council since war.....	40.
Number of houses built by private enterprise since war.....	14.
Number of applications for improvement grant received.....	5.
Number of applications for improvement grant approved.....	4.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Article 31.

No demolition orders were issued during the year.

Number of visits made under Building Byelaws.....	48.
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Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.Milk.Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....	14.
Number of samples taken, and were satisfactory.....	3.
Seven samples were also taken and examined for tuberculosis. All were reported negative.	

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all meat is supplied to the district from what was the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in Colwyn Rural District, and also from a newly opened slaughterhouse in Builth U.D.C.

Ice Cream Premises. There were two retailers of ice cream in the district, one new being registered during the year. Also sold by mobile van.

Number of inspections.....	3.
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Food Premises. The following food premises remained in operation at the end of the year.

Grocers.....	17 (one supplying ice cream)
Public houses and hotels.....	11.
Dairies.....	1.
Cafes.....	1.
Market Halls.....	1.

The district is also served by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge.

Facilities for the disposal of condemned food are available at the Gas Works.

Builth Wells Rural DistrictFood Preparation Rooms.

Number of visits.....5.

Educational Activities. All food premises were sent an explanatory memorandum bringing to their notice the details of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Other General Visits, not specified above.....29.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

Whooping Cough.....24 cases.

All the above cases were nursed at their homes. No death was caused by any of the above infectious diseases.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	13.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	4.
Number of deaths during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	2.
Number of cases which left the district.....	2.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	13.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
4.	1.	1..	1.	1.	9.	1.	0.	4.	3.	4.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the School medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health